

62 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

His letters abound with curious and valuable information which is nowhere else to be found. His accounts of parliamentary proceedings are of peculiar value, and seem to have been so considered by his employers. Copies of the despatches of L'Hermitage, and, indeed, of the despatches of all the ministers and agents employed by the States General in England from the time of Elizabeth downward, now are, or will soon be, in the library of the British Museum. For this valuable addition to the great national storehouse of knowledge, the country is chiefly indebted to Lord Palmerston.¹

Of still greater significance from its intimate and confidential character is the correspondence between William III and Anthony Heinsius, who held the office of Pensionary of Holland. It covers the whole period from 1689 to 1702.

The original correspondence of William and Heinsius is in Dutch, A French translation of all William's letters, and an English translation of a few of Heinsius's letters, are among the Mackintosh MSS. The Baron Sirtema de Grovestins, who has had access to the originals, frequently quotes passages in his ' Histoire des luttes et rivalités entre les puissances maritimes et la France '. There is very little difference in substance, though much in phraseology, between his version and that which I have used.²

Spain, like Holland, was deeply interested in the foreign

and domestic policy of James II, because it needed the support of England in its struggle against France. And since, by the formation of the Grand Alliance, it became the ally of William III in the war with Louis XIV, the question of

¹V_f 2368 (xx).

² III, 1373-4 (»)• Now published in the Third Series of the Archives on correspondance rnedite de la Maison d'Orange-Nassau, ed. F. J. L. Kramer (3 vols.; 1907-9).